

In the Claims

Claim 1. (Cancelled)

Claim 2. (Cancelled)

Claim 3. (Cancelled)

Claim 4. (Currently amended) A process for producing catalysts comprising activating phyllosilicates by use of acid in the presence of catalytically active ions, wherein the catalytically active ions comprise iron ions, wherein a solution which is formed during acid activation is separated from a remaining solution which contains excess catalytically active cations

preparing a mixture of a phyllosilicate and an activating acid;

adding iron cations to the mixture of the phyllosilicate and the activating acid;

activating the phyllosilicate by use of the activating acid in the presence of the iron cations;

separating a solution formed during the acid activation which contains excess iron cations from the activated phyllosilicate to produce the catalysts.

Claim 5. (Cancelled)

Claim 6. (Cancelled)

Claim 7. (Cancelled)

Claim 8. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 4 wherein the phyllosilicates are selected from the group consisting

of smectites, chlorites, illites, vermiculites of the serpentine-kaolin group and of the sepiolite-palygorskite group including montmorillonite, beidellite and nontronit.

Claim 9. (Cancelled)

Claim 10. (Cancelled)

Claim 11. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 4 wherein the acid activation is carried out in the presence of an earlier acid activation solution, which solution contains aluminum ions.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 4 wherein the acid activation is carried out in the presence of an earlier acid activation solution, which solution contains aluminum and iron ions.

Claim 13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Cancelled)

Claim 15. (Cancelled)

Claim 16. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 4 wherein the phyllosilicates after acid activation in the presence of catalytically active cations are washed, dried and calcined.

Claim 17. (Cancelled)

Claim 18. (Cancelled)

Claim 19. (Cancelled)

Claim 20. (Previously presented) A proton-catalyzed or Lewis acid-catalyzed reaction conducted in the presence of a catalyst

comprising preparing a catalyst by the process of Claim 4 and conducting the proton catalysis or Lewis acid-catalyzed reaction utilizing that catalyst.

Claims 21. through 28. (Cancelled)

Claim 29. (New) The process of Claim 4 wherein the iron ions are added to the mixture of phyllosilicate and activating acid in the form of a solution.

Basis for Amendment

The applicant has amended Claim 4 to place it in condition for review by the USPTO. In the Office Action the USPTO rejected Claim 4, under 35 USC §112, asserting that it failed to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, an issue was raised by the USPTO about language in the claim concerning "separation" of solutions. As rewritten, the language of Claim 4 is in accord with the specification at page 4 that was quoted by the Examiner in paragraph 4 on page 3 of the Office Action, which stated as follows:

The solution which [is] formed during acid activation together with a residual solution which contains the excess, catalytically active cations are then separated.

As rewritten in Claim 4, the separation step separates the remaining solution from the product obtained from the activation of the phyllosilicate. Basis for the amendments to Claim 4 is contained in the specification on page 4 in the last three paragraphs and in the first two paragraphs of page 5. In addition, the claimed process is disclosed in Examples 1 and 2 on pages 5 through 7 of the application, as well as in the Abstract on page 15.

Applicant has also added new Claim 29, which claims that the catalytically active iron ions are added to the mixture of phyllosilicates and activating acid "in the form of a solution." Basis for this amendment is contained in Example 2, on pages 6 and

7 of the application.

No new subject matter is introduced by any of the amendments to Claim 4 or by new Claim 29.